

4-94



Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. - our 46th ARRL affiliated year

Volume 2, No. 8

April 1994



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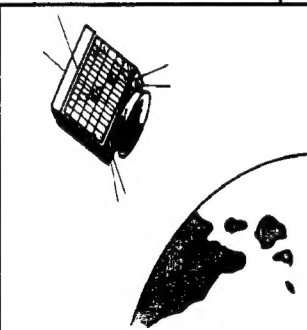
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Expiring 1994

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Expiring 1995

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WA1OHR	Everett Paluska
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April Meeting: Topic on space technology and space suits

Happy Easter!

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Next HCRA Meeting

The next Hampden County Radio Association meeting will take place on Friday night April 1, 1994 and will feature a meeting about Space technology and Space suits. Please consider attending and fit the HCRA in your Holiday plans. Our speaker has committed for April 1 and it is very difficult to reschedule for another topic. This meeting will feature Dr. Flush from United Technologies. He will bring in some of the latest space suits and talk about the latest space technology. This month the doors will open at approximately 7:15 P.M. and the meeting will start at approximately 7:30 P.M. with Tech Corner. This month Tech Corner will feature a meeting about antenna design using your PC. Ron Klimas WZ1V will be the presenter. Ron will bring 10 copies of shareware to be passed out of the yagimax antenna design program. He will also bring in a working prototype. The regular speaker will follow Ron and will begin talking around 8:00 P.M. We hope to see you there!

Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Route 57 & 187
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts

The next board meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday April 7, 1994 and will take place at Greg Stoddard's QTH. If you are interested in attending, please ask Greg, N1AEH for directions at the next meeting. Remember, anyone can attend our board meetings.

Coming in  3-D Television and virtual reality Technology. Also the Annual Flea Market on Sunday April 17 (See Flyer in this issue.)

President's Message

by Barry Mason N1IJK

Hello, and Happy Spring (finally)! I hope your antennas have survived the ice and snow. If not, at least it will be warm enough to be able to do something about them. It's a busy time of the year, but remember it's also time for the annual Flea Market, so mark down Sunday, April 17th on your calendar. The Flea Market is what keeps our club running, so I hope you will give a hand making it work. We will need help at the door, outside at the tailgate area, as well as set-up and take down. I'll be taking a list of names at the meeting Friday, so please see me or Dave or Adam Olson.

I want to thank Larry, N1EPE for a great Tech Corner, and invite you to share your new idea, circuit, or product review with us at Tech Corner. It's fun and well appreciated by those who attend. This month Ron Klimas WZ1V will be presenting Tech Corner. It will cover antenna design using your PC. It should be interesting to see.

As we are also nearing the end of our year, please also consider becoming a member of the board, or running for office. Yes, it involves some time, but it can also be fun, as well as rewarding. Elections are in June, so give it some thought, then get involved!

Time to go again, so until Friday,

73 Barry N1IJK



League's Opposition to Instant Operating

The ARRL has told the FCC that virtually every individual and group who commented on a Commission proposal for instant operating privileges for new amateurs agreed that the idea is a bad one, and urged the proposal to be abandoned.

In reply comments to the FCC on its proposal, in PR Docket 93-267, the ARRL said that "almost without exception," those who had commented -77 of them- agreed with the League that the idea should be shelved in favor of electronic filing of license applications with the FCC.

The ARRL said that the mechanisms for such electronic filing of Form 610s "cannot be more than a few months away at worst."

Plan would invite abuse

The League said that the FCC plan would invite abuse because, among other reasons, "The Commission itself suffers an inability to stem the tide of unlicensed operators in any radio service, because of limited enforcement resources."

The Commission was "inviting abuse" by proposing that unlicensed persons choose a call sign and go on the air without an FCC-issued license, suggesting they anyone wanting to use amateur frequencies could, under the FCC proposal, simply concoct a call sign without ever taking an examination or submitting a Form 610 to the FCC.

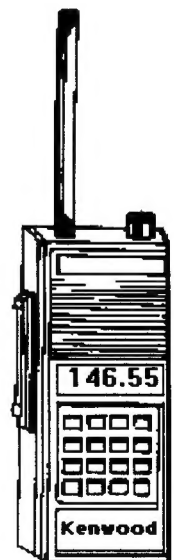
The ARRL said that two groups the FCC used as examples of temporary operating authority -the Marine Radio Service and the Private Land Mobile Radio Service- each "suffers a severe problem with unlicensed, not to mention undisciplined, operation."

In response to a counterproposal by the W5YI-VEC, that the FCC's plan be modified to avoid abuse by having volunteer examiners



"Under the FCC Proposal, anyone wanting to use amateur frequencies simply could concoct a call sign without ever taking an examination or submitting a Form 610 to the FCC."

The League's Opposition



Zero Beat is a monthly publication except in July and August by the Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. Any article may be reprinted as long as credit is given to the publication and its author(s). This issue would not be possible without the help of Mike Griffin and his typing assistance. Thanks, EDITOR

League's Opposition to Instant Operating (Cont.)

assign temporary call signs from blocks allocated to them by the FCC (instead of a more random assignment scheme proposed by the FCC), the League said that this would be an unbearable burden and responsibility on the VEs.

The League said that, at any rate, the Communications Act gives no basis for the FCC to delegate its authority to assign call signs, including determining a licensee's basic qualifications, which the VEs would have no way of doing.

Would not reduce inquiries

The ARRL, in its reply comments, observed that although one rationale for the Commission's proposal was

that it would reduce telephone calls to the FCC from people awaiting their first license, on the contrary, the proposal would probably result in *more* calls - from amateurs inquiring about the legitimacy of temporary call signs they heard on the amateur bands.

The League once again asked that the proceeding be terminated in favor of electronic filing as soon as that is feasible, saying it stands by its position that operating authority must stem directly from the FCC, and that it would be a serious mistake to allow this federal status to be diluted in the interest of some short-term expedient.

From the ARRL Letter

HCRA Classifieds

The following items are available for sale:

1. I would like to sell the following magazines:

CQ 1985 through 1991. Lot Cost \$7.00

QST 1980 through 1991. Lot Cost \$11.00

All are in excellent condition, bundled by years. Pick up at my QTH: Robert M. Stephens

20 Lindor Hts

Holyoke, MA 01040

Telephone # (413) 532-6020

73, Bob W1MM

2. **MFJ 207** HF SWR Analyzer. Finds SWR from 160 to 10 Meters. Can be used with or without frequency counter. With Manual. Asking \$50.00. If Interested, contact Barry NIJK @ (413) 747-7111

Wanted:

1. TI-99/4A Computer with speech synthesizer and related equipment

2. Extra guru for internal logic of Robot 400 for special application

Contact Rick KB1ZW @ (203) 688-2482

Ham Radio Briefs

Mississippi Hams Respond to February Ice Storm

The massive ice storm that hit much of the US on February 10 and 11 was especially damaging in Mississippi, and was the worst there in more than 40 years, according to Hank Downey, K5QNE.

Downey, writing in *The Magnolia Report*, says that the state's Amateur Radio efforts were led by Jim Porter, W5HTV, Director of Communications for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, and Larry Clark, WB5AKR, MEMA's statewide liaison with Amateur Radio. The two "directed traffic," sending amateurs to areas of greatest need.

Several amateurs were able to set up from mobile and portable, emergency powered sites and to activate the Magnolia Net, the Mississippi Section phone net. Included among them was net manager Al Sudduth, WA5TPM, who operated mobile after his home antennas came down in the ice.

The Jackson ARC activated W5PFC, their permanent station at the State Headquarters of the American Red Cross in the capital city, to coordinate communication with ARC offices around the state, Downey said.

****For the second month in a row, QST was delayed by the Winter of '94. This time it was ice in Kentucky, rendering R. R. Donnelley and Sons printing facility in Glasgow without electricity for two days, delaying March QST. The February issue was held up in Kentucky by snow.****

RF Exposure Plan Wrong-Headed, League Says

The ARRL has told the FCC that a proposal to adopt new standards for exposure to radio frequency radiation should be terminated.

The League said that the proposal, which would change the Commission's guidelines to match those adopted by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) in 1992, was premature, and more properly should have been introduced as an FCC notice of inquiry.

The ARRL said that the ANSI-IEEE standards were not properly delineated and not a proper basis for evaluating communications facilities. Under the proposal, the new standards would replace less stringent standards adopted in 1982.

"The Commission's handling of this proceeding," the League said, "is not conducive to a fair determination of which RF exposure standard, if any, should replace the 1982 ANSI standard, on which most of the current communications systems in operation in the United States are based."

The League said that an FCC report and order in 1987 that concluded that amateur stations should be exempted from such RF exposure guidelines, because amateur stations operate only intermittently, and at low power levels, still applies. Only rarely, the League said, would amateur stations exceed even the proposed, more stringent 1992 ANSI-IEEE standard.

According to the ARRL, the FCC's notice of proposed rule making has five main shortcomings:

- * It doesn't actually propose rule changes, or suggest anything on which to base substantive comments;
- * It asks for comments not on the 1992 RF exposure guidelines themselves but rather on how to implement them;
- * It suggests that the Commission has not decided to adopt the 1992 ANSI standard, yet offers no other standard as an alternative;
- * It discusses a standard - the 1992 ANSI-IEEE standard - that is not readily available to the public for review;
- * It addresses a subject that is, according to the Commission itself, beyond the Commission's expertise to deal with.

The League said that the FCC proceeding should be terminated in favor of more study, by a more appropriate government agency, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, or else by an FCC notice of inquiry. The Commission's NPRM is, the League said, actually "in the nature of" a notice of inquiry.

Based on the 1978 National Environmental Policy Act, which granted exclusions to some "routine" environmental processing, the Commission in 1987 said the following:

"Regarding amateur radio facilities, no specific evidence has been submitted that these facilities present a significant risk to the public that would warrant routine environmental evaluation. While hypothetically, RF radiation limits could be exceeded in a few instances, such situations apparently seldom occur in actual operation.

"Furthermore, because amateur stations are not individually licensed by frequency, modulation, power output, or location, it would not be administratively feasible to evaluate amateur applications for this environmental factor.

"Consequently, we find that amateur radio operators, at the time of licensing, should not be required to routinely submit environmental information concerning exposure to RF radiation. Nevertheless, as an added precaution, we agree with [the League] that operator education would help to assure compliance with ANSI guidelines. In that connection, RF radiation safety questions are being incorporated into amateur examinations study guides."

The League said that even before that exemption was granted, it had taken an aggressive approach toward education of amateurs about RF exposure.

Finally, the League said that if the FCC does decide to adopt a standard to replace the 1982 standard, it should not be the 1992 ANSI-IEEE standard, because it is "arbitrary on its face," and that some of the 1992 standards would be practically impossible to assess for either commercial or amateur facilities.

The League said that most amateur installations use antennas from 40 to 100 feet above ground, producing, according to the Commission's own measurement, minimal energy at ground level.

The possible exceptions, the League said, are where amateurs are forced to use indoor antennas because of restrictive land-use covenants that prevent outdoor antennas.

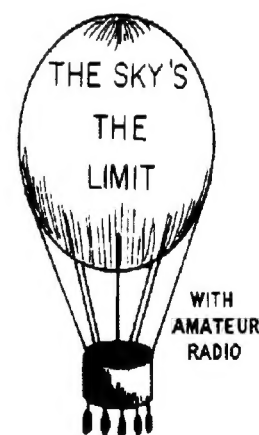
Many of the League's arguments to the FCC proposal paralleled those made last month at a hearing in New Jersey concerning a proposal to register and tax RF sources. In both instances, the League said that the infinite variety of amateur installations, and their ability to change configuration with something as simple as rotating a directional antenna, made of "routine environmental processing" of amateurs nonsensical.

This FCC proposal, in ET Docket 93-62, was made in the spring of 1993, and its comment deadline has been extended several times, most recently to January 25, 1994, based on a request by CBS Inc. The reply comment deadline is February 24, 1994.



Upgrade Information:

Congratulations go out to Dan N1RAL who recently upgraded from Novice. Dan is now a Tech Plus.



ARRL Field Day June 25-26th 1994



Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

Annual Flea Market

Sunday, April 17, 1994

Southwick Recreational Center

Southwick, Mass.

Computers

Amateur Radio

Electronics

Featuring Lentini Communications of Newington



Doors open for vendors only at 6:00 a.m.
Doors open for general admission at 9:00 a.m.

Amateur Radio VE Exams

Registration between 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

VE Exams begin promptly at 10:00 a.m.

VE Liason is Yorke Phillips K1BXE

Pre-registration is requested, please call Yorke at:

Phone (413) 566-3010



Admission is \$3.00

Vendor Tables: \$10.00 each reserved in advance with 1 admission

\$13.00 each at door (if available) with 1 admission

Tailgating will be offered at \$6.00 per car

Door Prizes

Giant Raffle Prize

For more information contact:

Barry Mason, N1IJK

38 Kenwood Ter.

Springfield, MA 01108

(413) 747-7111 - please no calls after 10:00 p.m.

David or Adam Olson

1371 Enfield St.

Enfield, CT 06082

(203) 745-2537 - between 3 & 10:00 p.m.

To advance order tables, send \$10.00 per table to either of the above individuals.

Also please return this order form with your check in the total amount.

Number of tables requested: _____ Name: _____
\$10.00 per table x 10 Call sign: _____

Total due for reservation _____ Phone Number: () _____

Make checks payable to HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Advance orders for tables must be received prior to April 10, 1993

Note: Vendor entrance in rear

Zero Beat - April 1994

April Meeting: Space Odyssey

Friday April 1, 1994

Beginning with Tech Corner:
Antenna Design Using Your PC
7:30 P.M.

Don't Forget! The HCRA's annual Flea Market - April 17, 1994

Editor: Kevin S. Hilinski NR1L

**Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 482
West Springfield, MA 01090-0482**

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